

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /117 W
-----131743Z 088407 /43

R 130241Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9653
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDEL MTN GENEVA
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: AUGUST ASEAN SUMMIT TO WITNESS RATIFICATION
OF PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH COMATT MAY 12, UNDERSECRETARY
OF TRADE VICENTE VALDEPENAS SAID THAT THE ASEAN
COUNTRIES PLAN TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE AUGUST SUMMIT
MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR BY EXCHANGING RATIFICATIONS
OF THE AGREEMENT ON PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS
(APTA) WHICH WAS SIGNED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
IN MANILA ON FEBRUARY 24, 1977. SINGAPORE HAS ALREADY
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RATIFIED THE AGREEMENT.

2. VALDEPENAS STATED THAT THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WERE
ALSO INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON THE SPECIFIC
PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD BE GRANTED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.
AT THE MARCH 28 TO APRIL 2 MEETING OF THE ASEAN COMMITTEE
ON TRADE AND TOURISM, ON WHICH HE IS THE GOP REPRESENTATIVE,

THE FIVE COUNTRIES EXCHANGED OFFER/REQUEST LISTS CONTAINING 235 PRODUCTS OR COMMODITIES.

3. MOST SURPRISINGLY, INDONESIA PRESENTED AN OFFER OF 10 COMMODITIES FOR TARIFF PREFERENCES. VALDEPENAS THOUGHT THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD, AS MUCH DEPENDS ON THE PACE AND DIRECTION OF INDONESIA. HE ATTRIBUTES THE INDONESIAN INITIATIVE TO THE GOI REPRESENTATIVE, DR. SOEHARDI, WHO IS A U.S.-TRAINED ECONOMIST AND BELIEVER IN FREE TRADE.

4. VALDEPENAS DECLINED TO REVEAL THE SPECIFIC PRODUCTS INVOLVED, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT MOST WERE PROCESSED MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURERS. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND TOURISM WILL MEET AGAIN IN SINGAPORE ON JUNE 3, AND HOPEFULLY THE COMMITTEE COULD FINALIZE THE LIST OF PRODUCTS TO BE GIVEN PREFERENCES UNDER THE APTA.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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